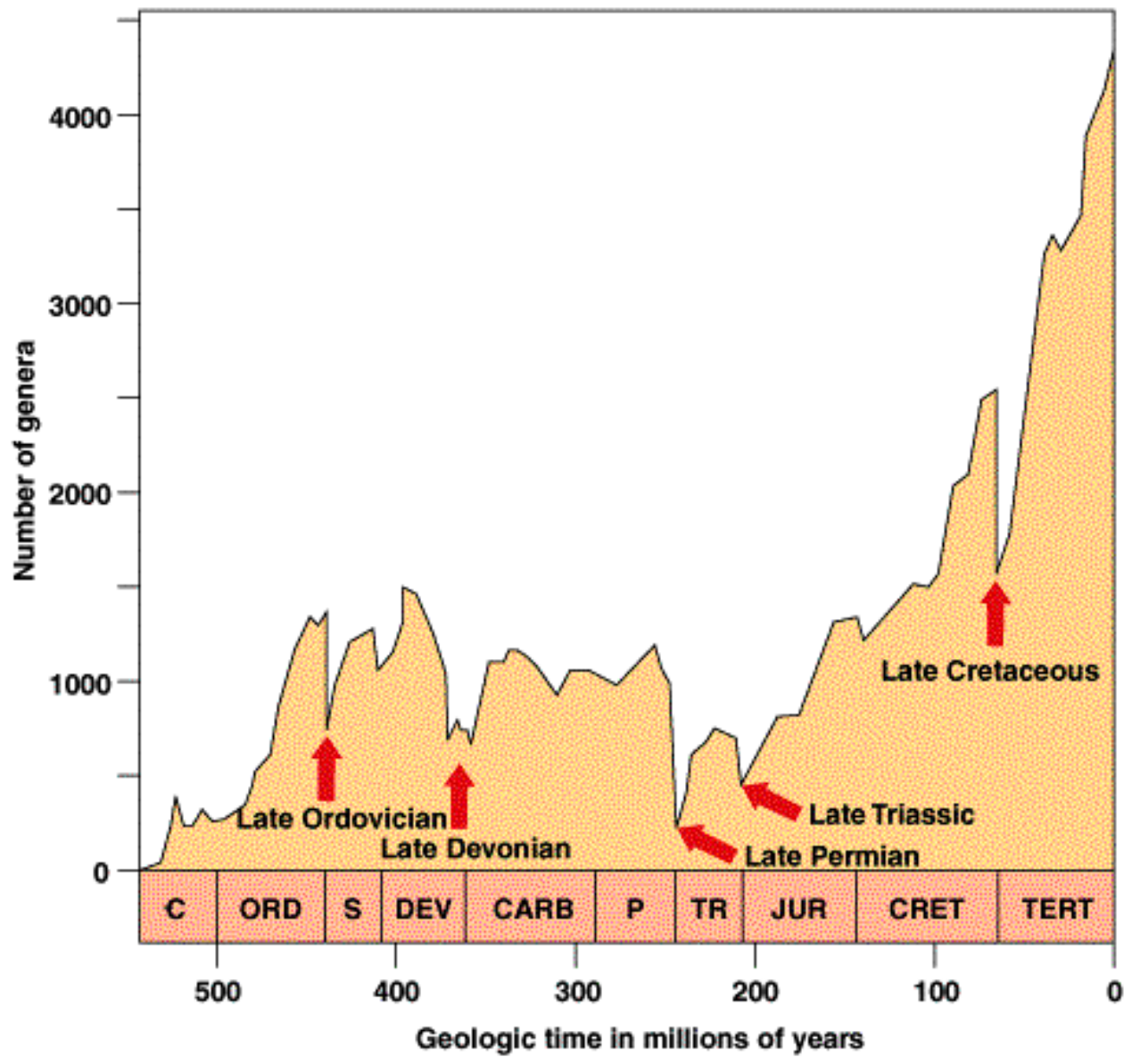


# **Mission 2015 : Whole Earth Triage: securing the future**



Life has existed on Earth for over 3.5 billion years. Over 95% of the species that ever existed have gone extinct. So why should we be concerned about current extinction rates and conserving biodiversity?



# IMPACT or FLOOD BASALT?



“The fate of biological diversity for the next 10 million years will almost certainly be determined during the next 50-100 years by the activities of a single species. That species, *Homo sapiens*, is approximately 200,000 years old.”

Paul Ehrlich and Robert Pringle, PNAS, August 2008.

In 2002, world leaders committed, through the Convention on Biological Diversity, to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.

Biodiversity is still declining with no reductions in rate and pressures on biodiversity including resource competition, invasive alien species, nitrogen pollution, climate change impacts, all showed increases.

Bottom line: although progress has been made, rate of loss does not seem to be slowing.

# Meeting Places

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- Class will meet in three different places, so consult the “Syllabus” page before each class meeting to see where you will go
- **THIS MONDAY WE MEET in 32-123**
- <http://web.mit.edu/12.000/www/m2015/>